



News Release

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

The Idaho Water Center, 322 E. Front St., Boise, ID - TEL: (208) 287-4800 FAX: (208) 287-6700

www.idwr.idaho.gov

Release 2007-39

For Immediate Release
Boise, Idaho – August 1, 2007

For Media Information Contact:
Bob McLaughlin – 208-287-4828

Retired Justice Schroeder Appointed As Hearing Officer In Water Disputes

Idaho Department of Water Resources Director David Tuthill today announced the appointment of Gerald F. Schroeder, former Chief Justice of the Idaho Supreme Court, as the independent hearing officer for the hearings involving the Thousand Springs area and the Surface Water Coalition water delivery calls. The appointment comes the day after Schroeder retired from the Idaho Supreme Court, where he served for 12 years.

“Justice Schroeder was the first choice of the water users and was the first choice of IDWR for this very important assignment,” says Tuthill. “His willingness to serve as a hearing officer is a breath of fresh air in what has been a difficult water year in Idaho.”

Schroeder has deliberated over 30 major water law cases before the Idaho Supreme Court, 10 of which he authored. The former Chief Justice was chosen based upon his distinguished service as a long time member of the Idaho judiciary, his familiarity with the rules of administrative procedure, water rights law, and related issues.

“I look forward to serving as hearing officer to face the challenging water issues that will be before me,” says Schroeder. “During my time serving on the Idaho Supreme Court, I considered water issues among the most important to the citizens of Idaho.”

Gov. Cecil Andrus appointed Schroeder a District Judge in the Fourth Judicial District in 1975 where he served 19 years, 13 years as administrative judge. On Jan. 20, 1995, Gov. Phil Batt appointed Schroeder to the Idaho Supreme Court. The Supreme Court elected him to the position of Chief Justice for a four-year term, which began Sept. 1, 2004.

Along with the announcement of the appointment of a hearing officer, IDWR Director Tuthill also announced revised dates for the hearings in the water delivery calls. The revised dates were made at the request of the parties in order to provide more preparation time. All parties involved in the hearings agreed to the revised dates. IDWR agreed to a revised hearing schedule due to the need for complete and fair hearings. The revised schedules set hearing commencement dates of Nov. 28, 2007, for the Thousand Springs area calls and Jan. 16, 2008, for the Surface Water Coalition call.

(end)